

SKR

Send out more horses, *skirre* the country round;
Hang those that talk of fear. *Shakep. Macbeth.*
To SKIRRE. *v. n.* To scour; to feud; to run in haste.
We'll make them *skirre* away as swift as stones
Enforced from the old Assyrian slings. *Shakep. Henry V.*
SKIRRET. *n. f.* [*Skirum*, Latin.] A plant.
It produces its flowers in an umbel, which consists of several leaves placed circularly, and expanded in form of a rose: the empalement afterward becomes a fruit, composed of two narrow seeds, that are gibbous, and furrowed on one side, but plain on the other. The roots are shaped like long turneps, and are joined to one head. *Miller.*

Skirrets are a sort of roots propagated by seed. *Motimer.*
SKIRT. *n. f.* [*Skirta*, Swedish.]
1. The loose edge of a garment; that part which hangs loose below the waist.
It's but a nightgown in respect of yours; cloth of gold and cuts, fide sleeves and *skirts*, round underborne with a bluish tinsel. *Shakep. Much Ado about Nothing.*
As Samuel turned about to go away, he laid hold upon the *skirt* of his mantle, and it rent. *1 Sa. xv. 27.*
2. The edge of any part of the dress.
A narrow lace, or a small *skirt* of ruffled linen, which runs along the upper part of the stays before, and crosses the breast, being a part of the tucker, is called the modesty-piece. *Addison.*
3. Edge; margin; border; extreme part.
He should seat himself at Athie, upon the *skirt* of that unquiet country. *Spenser on Ireland.*

Ye mists, that rise
From hill or steaming lake, dusky or grey,
'Till the sun paint your fleecy *skirts* with gold,
In honour to the world's great Author rise. *Milton.*
Though I fled him angry, yet recall'd
To life prolong'd, and promis'd race, I now
Glasly behold, though but his utmost *skirts*
Of glory, and far off his steps adore. *Milt. Parad. Lost.*
The northern *skirts*, that join to Syria have entered into the conquests or commerce of the four great empires; but that which seems to have secured the other is the stony and sandy deserts, through which no army can pass. *Temple.*

Upon the *skirts*
Of Arragon your squander'd troops he rallies. *Dryden.*
To SKIRT. *v. a.* [from the noun.] To border; to run along the edge.
Temple *skirteth* this hundred on the waste side. *Carew.*
Of all these bounds,
With shadowy forests and with champions rich'd,
With plenteous rivers and wide *skirted* meads,
We make thee lady. *Shakespeare.*

The middle pair
Skirted his loins and thighs with downy gold. *Milton.*
A spacious circuit on the hill there stood,
Level and wide, and *skirted* round with wood. *Addison.*
SKITTISH. *adj.* [*Skys*, Danish; *schew*, Dutch.]
1. Shy; easily frightened.
A restless *skittish* jade had gotten a trick of rising, starting, and flying out at his own shadow. *L'Estrange.*
2. Wanton; volatile; hasty; precipitate.
Now expectation, tickling *skittish* spirits,
Sets all on hazard. *Shakespeare.*
He still resolv'd, to mend the matter,
T' adhere and cleave the obdurate;
And still the *skittish*er and looser,
Her freaks appear'd to fit the closer. *Hudibras.*

3. Changeable; fickle.
Some men sleep in *skittish* fortune's hall,
While others play the ideots in her eyes. *Shakespeare.*
Such as I am, all true lovers are;
Unstaid and *skittish* in all notions else,
Save in the constant image of the creature
That is belov'd. *Shak. Twelfth Night.*

SKITTISHLY. *adv.* [from *skittish*.] Wantonly; uncertainly; ficklely.

SKITTISHNESS. *n. f.* [from *skittish*.] Wantonnefs; fickleness.

SKONCE. *n. f.* [See *SCONCE*.]

Reinard ranfacketh every corner of his wily *skence*, and bestirreth the utmost of his nimble stumps to quit his coat from their jaws. *Carew.*
SKREEN. *n. f.* [*screen*, *screen*, French, which *Minshew* derives from *seericulum*, Latin. *Nimis violentus ut sciet*, says *Skinner*, which may be true as to one of the senses; but if the first sense of *screen* be a kind of coarse sieve or riddle, it may perhaps come, if not from *cribrum*, from some of the descendants of *crus*.]

1. A riddle or coarse sieve.
A skuttle or *screen* to rid soil fro' the corn. *Tupper.*
2. Any thing by which the sun or weather is kept off.
Shelter; concealment.
Fenc'd from day, by night's eternal *screen*;
Unknown to heav'n, and to myself unseen. *Dryden.*

SKY

To SKREEN. *v. a.* [from the noun.]
1. To riddle; to sift. A term yet used among masons when they sift sand for mortar.
2. To shade from sun or light, or weather.
3. To keep off light or weather.
The curtains closely drawn, the light to *screen*:
Thus cover'd with an artificial night,
Sleep did his office. *Dryden.*
The waters mounted up into the air: their interposition betwixt the earth and the sun *screened* them from punishment. *Woodward's Natural History.*
4. To shelter; to protect.

Ajax interpos'd
His sevenfold shield, and *screen'd* Laertes' son,
When the insulting Trojans urg'd him fore. *Philips.*
He that travels with them is to *screen* them, and get them out when they have run themselves into the briars. *Lake.*
His majesty encouraged his subjects to make mouths at their betters, and afterwards *screened* them from punishment. *Spelt.*
The scales, of which the scarf-skin is composed, are designed to fence the orifices of the secretory ducts of the military glands, and to *screen* the nerves from external injuries. *Cheyne.*
SKUE. *adj.* [Of this word there is found no satisfactory derivation.] Oblique; fidelong. It is most used in the adverb *askue*.

Several have imagined that this *skue* posture of the axis is a most unfortunate thing; and that if the poles had been erect to the plane of the ecliptick, all mankind would have enjoyed a very paradise. *Bentley.*

To SKULK. *v. n.* To hide; to lurk in fear or malice.
Discover'd, and defeated of your prey,
You *skulk'd* behind the fence, and sneak'd away. *Dryden.*

SKULL. *n. f.* [*Skola*, Islandick; *skutti*, Islandick, a head.]
1. The bone that incloses the head: it is made up of several pieces, which, being joined together, form a considerable cavity, which contain the brain as in a box, and it is proportionate to the bigness of the brain. Its figure is round, and a little depressed on its sides. The several pieces, of which the skull is composed, are joined together by sutures, which makes it less apt to break: these pieces or bones are six proper and two common, and each is made up of two tables, or laminae, between which there is a thin and spongy substance, made of some bony fibres, which come from each lamina, called in Greek *σπλῆξ*, and in Latin *medullarium*. In it are a great many veins and arteries, which bring blood for the nourishment of the bones. The tables are hard and solid, because in them the fibres of the bones are close to one another. The *diploe* is soft, because the bony fibres are at a greater distance from one another. The external lamina is smooth, and covered with the pericranium: the internal is likewise smooth; but on it are several furrows, made by the pulse of the arteries of the dura mater, whilst the cranium was soft and yielding. *Quincy.*
Some lay in dead mens *skulls*; and in those holes,
Where eyes did once inhabit, there were crept,
As 'twere in frown of eyes, reflecting gems. *Shakep. R. III.*
With redoubled strokes he plies his head;
But drives the batter'd *skull* within the brains. *Dryden.*
2. [Secole, Saxon, a company.] A shoal. See *SCULL*.
Repair to the river where you have seen them swim in *skulls* or shoals. *Walton.*

SKULLCAP. *n. f.* A headpiece.
SKULLCAP. *n. f.* [*caffida*, Latin.] A plant.
The florets are longish, one in each ala of the leaves: the upper leaf is galeated like an helmet, with two auricles adjoining: the under leaf, for the most part, is divided into two: the calyx, having a cover, contains a fruit resembling the heel of a slipper or shoe. *Miller.*

SKY. *n. f.* [*sky*, Danish.]
1. The region which surrounds this earth beyond the atmosphere. It is taken for the whole region without the earth.
The mountains their broad backs upheave
Into the clouds, their tops ascend the *sky*. *Milton.*
The maids of Argos, who with frantic cries,
And imitated howlings, fill'd the *skies*. *Rowe's Roman.*
Raise all thy winds, with night involve the *skies*,
Sink, or disperse. *Dryden's Æn.*

2. The heavens.
The thunderer's bolt you know,
Sky planted, batters all rebelling coasts. *Shakep. Cymbeline.*
What is this knowledge but the *sky* stol'n fire,
For which the thief still chain'd in ice doth sit. *Davies.*
Wide is the fronting gate, and rais'd on high,
With adamant columns threatens the *sky*. *Dryden.*

3. The weather.
Thou wert better in thy grave, than to answer with thy uncovered body this extremity of the *skies*. *Shakep. K. Lear.*
SKYEY. *adj.* [from *sky*.] Not very elegantly formed.] Ethereal.
A breath thou art,
Servile to all breath influences,
That do this habitation, where thou keep'st,
Hourly afflict. *Shakep. Measure for Measure.*

I

SLA

SKY'COLOUR. *n. f.* [*sky* and *colour*.] An azure colour; the colour of the sky.
A solution as clear as water, with only a light touch of *sky-colour*, but nothing near so high as the ceruleous tincture of silver. *Boyle.*
SKY'COLOURED. *adj.* [*sky* and *colour*.] Blue; azure; like the sky.

This your Ovid himself has hinted, when he tells us that the blue water nymphs are dressed in *skycoloured* garments. *Add.*
SKY'DYED. *adj.* [*sky* and *dye*.] Coloured like the sky.
There figs, *skydied*, a purple hue disclose. *Pope.*

SKY'ED. *adj.* [from *sky*.] Enveloped by the skies. This is unusual and unauthorized.
The pale deluge floats
O'er the *sky'd* mountain to the shadowy vale. *Thomson.*

SKY'ISH. *adj.* [from *sky*.] Coloured by the ether; approaching the sky.
Of this flat a mountain you have made,
T' o'er top old Pelion, or the *skyish* head
Of blue Olympus. *Shakep. Hamlet.*

SKY'LARK. *n. f.* [*sky* and *lark*.] A lark that mounts and sings.
He next proceeded to the *sky-lark*, mounting up by a proper scale of notes, and afterwards falling to the ground with a very easy descent. *Spektor.*

SKY'LIGHT. *n. f.* [*sky* and *light*.] A window placed in a room, not laterally, but in the ceiling.
A monstrous fowl dropt through the *skylight*, near his wife's apartment. *Arbutnot, and Pope's Mart. Scriblerus.*

SKY'ROCKET. *n. f.* [*sky* and *rocket*.] A kind of firework, which flies high and burns as it flies.
I considered a comet, or in the language of the vulgar a blazing star, as a *skyrocket* discharged by an hand that is almighty. *Addison.*

SLAB. *n. f.*
1. A puddle. *Ainsworth.*
2. A plane of stone: as, a marble *slab*.

SLAB. *adj.* [A word, I suppose, of the same original with *slabber*, or *slaver*.] Thick; viscous; glutinous.
Nose of Turk, and Tartar's lips;
Finger of birth-strang'd babe,
Ditch-deliver'd by a drab;
Make the cruel thick and *slab*. *Shakep. Macbeth.*

To SLA'BER. *v. n.* [*slabben*, *slabberen*, Dutch.]
1. To let the spittle fall from the mouth; to drivel.
2. To shed or pour any thing.

To SLA'BER. *v. a.*
1. To smear with spittle.
He *slabbered* me all over, from cheek to cheek, with his great tongue. *Arbutnot's History of John Bull.*

2. To shed; to spill.
The milk pan and cream pot so *slabber'd* and soft,
That butter is wanting, and cheese is half lost. *Tupper.*

SLA'BERER. *n. f.* [from *slabber*.] He who slabbers.
SLA'BBY. *adj.* [The same with *slab*.]
1. Thick; viscous.

In the cure of an ulcer, with a moist intemperies, *slabby* and greasy medicaments are to be forborn, and drying to be used. *Wifeman's Surgery.*

2. Wet; floody.
When waggon boys the stunted becom ply,
To rid the *slabby* pavements, pass not by. *Gay.*

SLACK. *adj.* [*pleac*, Saxon; *slaken*, Islandick; *ylack*, Welsh; *laxus*, Latin.]
1. Not tense; not hard drawn; loose.
The vein in the arm is that which Aretæus commonly opens; and he gives a particular caution in this case to make a *slack* compression, for fear of exciting a convulsion. *Arbutnot.*

2. Remiss; not diligent; not eager; not fervent.
Thus much help and furtherance is more yielded, in that, if so be our zeal and devotion to Godward be *slack*, the alacrity and fervour of others serveth as a present spur. *Hosker.*

Seeing his soldiers *slack* and timorous, he reproved them of cowardice and treason.
Nor were it just, would he resume that shape,
That *slack* devotion should his thunder 'scape. *Waller.*

Rebellion now began, for lack
Of zeal and plunder, to grow *slack*. *Hudibras.*

3. Not violent; not rapid.
Their pace was formal, grave, and *slack*:
His humble wit out-ran the heavy pack. *Dryden.*

A handful of *slack* dried hops spoil many pounds, by taking away their pleasant smell. *Motimer's Husbandry.*

4. Relaxed; weak; not holding fast.
All his joints relax'd:
From his *slack* hand the garland wreath'd for Eve
Down dropp'd, and all the faded roses shed. *Milton.*

To SLACK. } *v. n.* [from the adjective.]
To SLACKEN. }
1. To be remiss; to neglect.
When thou shalt vow a vow unto the Lord, *slack* not to pay it. *Deutr. xxiii. 21.*

2. To lose the power of cohesion.
The fire, in lime burnt, lies hid, so that it appears to be cold; but water excites it again, whereby it *slackens* and crumbles into fine powder. *Mason's Alect. Exer.*

3. To abate.
Whence these raging fires
Will *slacken*, if his breath stir not their flames. *Milton.*

4. To languish; to fail; to flag.
To SLACK. } *v. a.*
To SLACKEN. }
1. To loosen; to make less tight.
Ah generous youth, that with forbear;
Slack all thy fails, and fear to come. *Dryden.*

Had Ajax been employ'd, our *slacken'd* fails
Had still at Aulis waited happy gales. *Dryden.*

2. To relax; to remit.
This makes the pulses beat, and lungs respire;
This holds the sinews like a bridle's reins,
And makes the body to advance, retire,
To turn or stop, as the them *slack* or strains. *Davies.*

Taught power's due use to people and to kings,
Taught nor to *slack* nor strain its tender strings. *Pope.*

3. To ease; to mitigate. *Philips* seems to have used it by mistake for *slake*.
Men, having been brought up at home under a strict rule of duty, always restrained by sharp penalties from lewd behaviour, so soon as they come thither, where they see laws more *slackly* tended, and the hard restraint, which they were used unto, now *slack'd*, they grow more loose. *Spenser.*

If there be cure or charm
To respice or deceive, or *slack* the pain
Of this ill mansion. *Milton's Paradise Lost.*
On our account has Jove,
Indulgent, to all moons some succulent plant
Allow'd, that poor helpless man-might *slack*
His present thirst, and matter find for toil. *Philips.*

4. To remit for want of eagerness.
My guards
Are you, great pow'rs, and th' unabated strength
Of a firm conscience; which shall arm each step
Ta'en for the state, and teach me *slack* no pace. *Ben. Jonson.*

With such delay well pleas'd, they *slack* their course. *Milt.*

5. To cause to be remitted.
You may sooner by imagination quicken or *slack* a motion, than raise or cease it; as it is easier to make a dog go slower than make him stand still. *Bacon.*

This doctrine must supersede and *slacken* all industry and endeavour, which is the lowest degree of that which hath been promised to be accepted by Christ; and leave nothing to us to deliberate or attempt, but only to obey our fate. *Hammond.*

Extol not riches then, the toil of fools,
The wife man's cumbrance, if not snare; more apt
To *slacken* virtue, and abate her edge,
Than prompt her to do aught may merit praise. *Milton.*

Balls of this metal *slack'd* Atlanta's pace,
And on the am'rous youth bestow'd the race. *Waller.*
One conduces to the poet's aim, which he is driving on in every line: the other *slackens* his pace, and diverts him from his way. *Dryden.*

6. To relieve; to unbind.
Here have I seen the king, when great affairs
Gave leave to *slacken* and unbend his cares,
Attended to the chase by all the flow'r
Of youth, whose hopes a nobler prey devour. *Denham.*

7. To with-hold; to use less liberally.
He that so generally is good, must of necessity hold his virtue to you, whose worthiness would stir it up where it wanted, rather than *slack* it where there is such abundance. *Shakep.*

8. To crumble; to deprive of the power of cohesion.
Some unslack'd lime cover with ashes, and let it stand 'till rain comes to *slack* the lime; then spread them together. *Mort.*

9. To neglect.
Why might not you, my lord, receive attendance
From those that the calls servants, or from mine?
—If then they chanc'd to *slack* ye,
We could controul them. *Shakep. King Lear.*

This good chance, that thus much favour,eth,
He *slack* not. *Daniel's Civil War.*
Slack not the good preface, while heav'n inspires
Our minds to dare, and gives the ready fires. *Dryden.*

10. To repress; to make less quick or forcible.
I should be griev'd, young prince, to think my presence
Unbent your thoughts, and *slacken'd* 'em to arms. *Addison.*

SLACK. *n. f.* [from the verb *to slack*.] Small coal; coal broken in small parts.
SLACKLY. *adv.* [from *slack*.]
1. Loosely; not tightly; not closely.
2. Negligently; remissly.
That a king's children should be so convey'd,
So *slackly* guarded, and the search so slow
That could not trace them. *Shakespeare's Cymbeline.*

SLACKNESS.

SLA